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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS
IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY
AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 19 September 1997 from the Permanent
Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, enclosed herewith, a letter addressed to you from Mr. Eduardo Stein Barillas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala, and to request that it be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45.

(Signed) Julio Armando MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



ANNEX

Letter dated 8 September 1997 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Guatemala addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in order to inform you that at the Extraordinary Meeting of Central American Presidents, held in Managua on 2 September, it was decided, based on the premise that Central America is a political, economic, social and cultural community which is living through an exceptional historical moment, characterized by the existence of democratic governments, and where peace has been established, to create the Central American Union, which seeks to establish a great fatherland - democratic and equitable, prosperous and tolerant, competitive and cooperative, whose development requires the expression of a constant political will.

This Union will enable all Central American social sectors to take full advantage of the region's strategic geographical location, economic potential, vast ecological wealth and robust and abundant human resources within the new international order, and to confront the challenges of the next millennium.

In this connection, the Central American Presidents are convinced that the Central American Union will result in more tangible benefits for the population. This implies a further deepening of the commitments made in the framework of integration, particularly those that will enable the region to become profitably integrated into globalization processes. It also implies a decision to ensure the proper functioning and regionally harmonious development of democratic institutions.

The reform of the Central American Integration System, guidelines for which were adopted at the Nineteenth Meeting of Central American Presidents, held in Panama City, has been a first step towards the formation of the Central American Union. The reform effort contributes to the building of stronger and more streamlined regional institutions which reflect our desire to move forward in uniting the Central American peoples; we are mindful, therefore, that this effort requires an unswerving commitment to the Central American ideal.

The decision of the Central American Presidents to initiate the gradual and progressive process of building the Central American Union as the highest expression of the mutual partnership envisaged in the Tegucigalpa Protocol of 1991 is our primary commitment for now.

In this connection, taking into account the significant progress being made in the Central American integration process, I have the honour to request you to inform the international community of the decision of the Central American Presidents to establish the Central American Union.

(Signed) Eduardo STEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
